

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 1 of 40

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Olde Bank Floral Ad
- 2- Robotics Photos
- 7- Track teams win at Sisseton
- 8- FCCLA Style Show - Part 1
- 15- Today in Weather History
- 16- Local Weather Forecast
- 17- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 17- Today's Weather Climate
- 17- National Weather map
- 18 - Daily Devotional
- 19 - News from the Associated Press
- 40- City left with a lot of junk to haul out this week

Sunday, May 7

United Methodist Church: Conde worship with communion, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Confirmation Sunday, 10 a.m.; Groton worship with communion at 11 a.m.; NO Sunday School.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m. (Milestones, FF Scholarship awards); Sunday School, 10 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.

Catholic Parish: Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian: Bible Study at 9:30 a.m., Worship at 11 a.m.

Heaven Bound Ministries: Worship in Pierpont at 10 a.m. with Communion.

Monday, May 8

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli, garlic toast, orange sherbet.

School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, tri tater, romaine salad, fruit, bread sticks.

School Breakfast: Mini pancake, fruit, juice, milk.

Groton Schools: Girls golf meet in Groton at 10 a.m., 7th/8th grade track at Aberdeen Central HS at 4 p.m., School Board Meeting at 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Evening Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 9

Senior Menu: New England ham dinner, fruit cocktail cake, ice cream, whole wheat bread.

School Lunch: Submarines, sweet tots, fruit.

School Breakfast: Boscus stick, fruit, juice, milk.

Groton Schools: Track at Britton, 2 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

© 2017 Groton Daily Independent

Fresh flowers, silks, home decor



Olde Bank Floral @ 

& so much more

 101 N. Main St., Groton ~ 397-8650
www.oldebankfloral.com

G-Force took 3rd place in the "Open Division" at the Create US Open Robotics Championship.

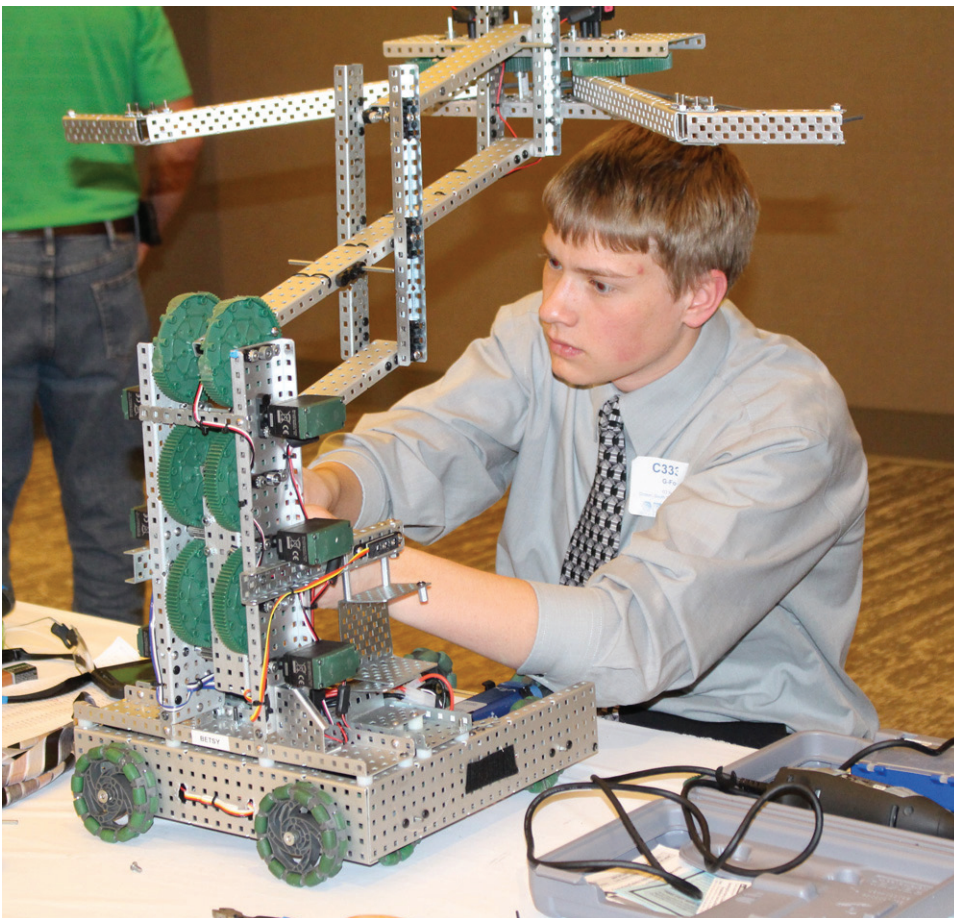
G-Force had to work out a problem with the arm on their robot that did not move quickly any longer. Landon Marzahn, Hunter Monson and Tanner McGannon worked late finding and fixing the trouble. The next morning showed that their work was worthwhile. They started the day in 2nd place in their "Open Division" with several teams still undefeated, separated only by autonomous and score points. At the end of the qualifying rounds, G-Force was in 1st place after bouncing around the top five rankings. Qualifying rounds are somewhat like the regular season in other sports. After the qualifying rounds there is an alliance selection during which the 12 top teams at the end of the qualifying round choose two teams to alliance with during the elimination rounds (playoffs). G-Force won their quarter-final match but lost in the semi-finals. They finished in 3rd place out of 45 teams.

GT Robotics other three teams at the tournament struggled and ended the tournament with:

Galaxy -- ranked 53rd: Travis Townsend & River Pardick, (Lee Williams & Alex Dutchux, not able to attend)

G.A.T. Wrenches – ranked 81st : Noah Tullis, Thomas Cranford, Tyler Iverson & Dan Feist

Geek Squad – ranked 93rd: Isaac Smith, Dragr Monson, Andrew Marzahn & Jacob Lewandowski



Landon Marzahn is working on his robot. Serious, dedicated, driven and thinking.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 3 of 40



G-Force Hunter Monson, Tanner McGannon and Landon Marzahn, first place team after qualification rounds.



These are the Groton Robotists participating in the US Open. In back, left to right, are Hunter Monson, Tanner McGannon, Landon Marzahn, Thomas Cranford, Noah Tullis and Tyler Iverson; in the middle row, left to right, are Dan Feist, Travis Townsend, Advisor Jim Lane, Jacob Lewandowski, Andrew Marzahn and Isaac Smith; in front are River Pardick and Dragr Monson.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 4 of 40



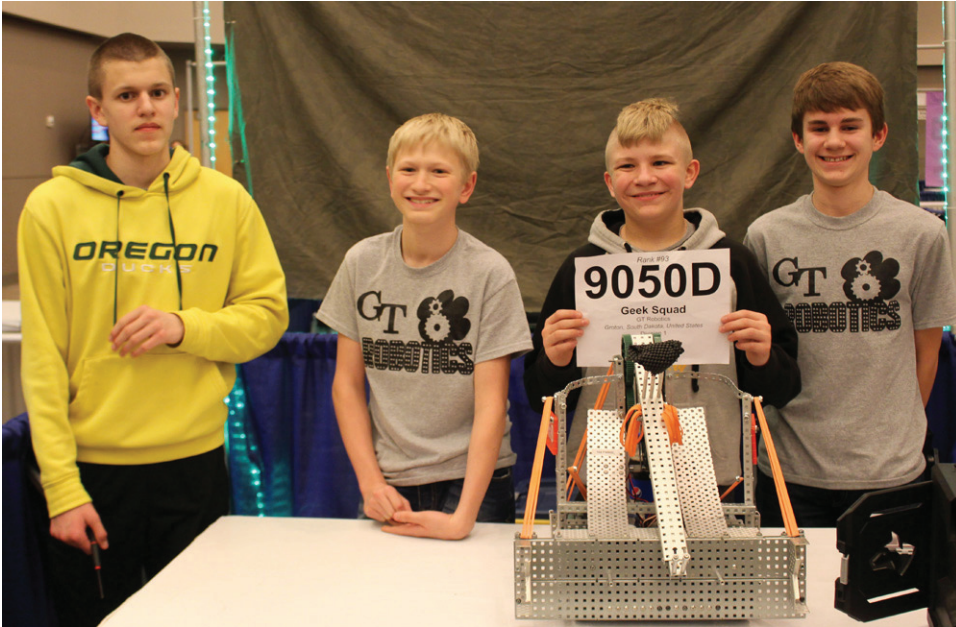
G.A.T. Wrenches Noah Tullis, Tyler Iverson, Dan Fiest and Thomas Cranford.

Galaxy team of Travis Townsend and River Pardick.



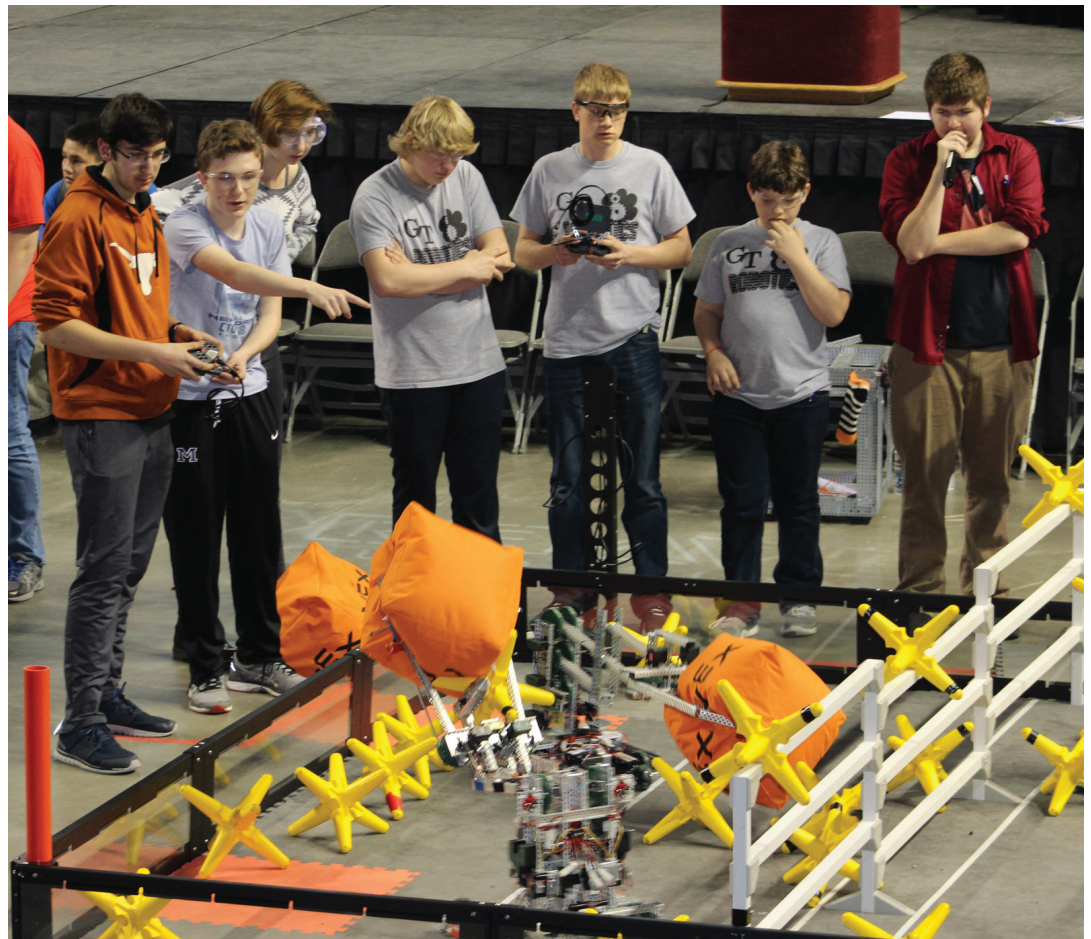
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 5 of 40



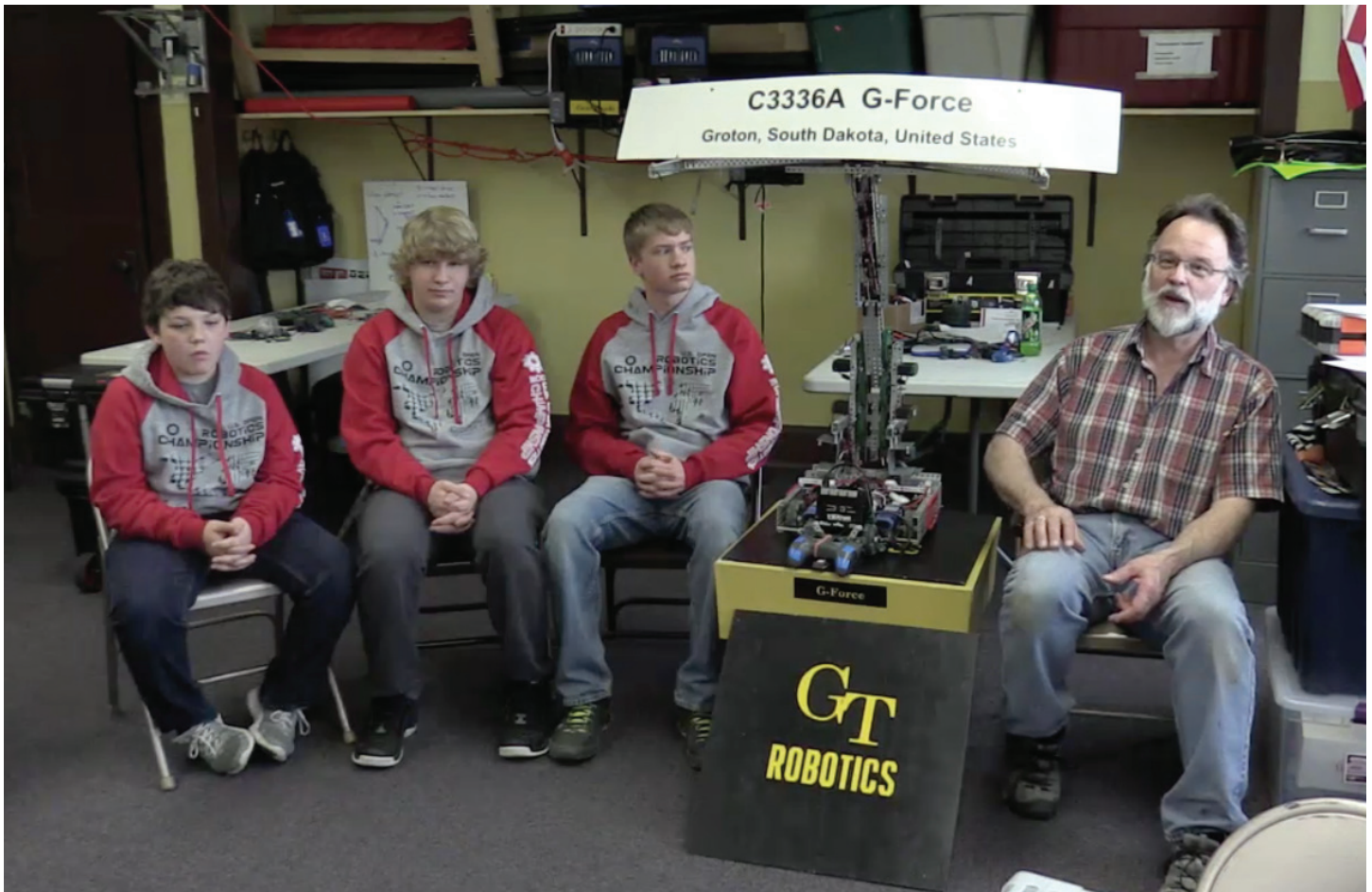
Geek Squad (Isaac Smith, Andrew Marzahn, Dragr Monson and Jacob Lewandowski)

G-Force team competing - Hunter Monson, Landon Marzahn and Tanner McGannon.



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 6 of 40



The G-Force team was interviewed live on GDILIVE.COM. You can go to the website to watch the interview where they talk about their experiences at the US Open. Pictured are Tanner McGannon, Hunter Monson, Landon Marzahn and Advisor Jim Lane.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 7 of 40

Groton track teams both win at Sisseton

Groton's track teams both swept the Sisseton Twilight meet held May 5. Four boys relay teams took first, as did Jonathan Doeden in the 100m Hurdles, Bennett Shabazz in the triple jump and McClain Lone in the discus. First place winners for the girls were the Harleigh Stange in the 200m dash and the long jump, the 400m Relay team and Jessica Bjerke in the discus.

Boy's Division

Team Scores: 1, Groton Area, 145.5; 2, Milbank Area, 108.5; 3, West Central Area, 69; 4, Sisseton, 48; 5, Warner, 44; 6, Leola, 43.5; 7, Clark/Willow Lake, 43; 8, Florence/Henry, 42; 9, Webster Area, 33; 10, Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley, 30; 10, Wheaton/Herman-Norcross, 30; 10, Sargent County, 30; 13, Aberdeen Roncalli, 19; 14, Wilmot, 14; 15, Rosholt, 12; 16, Hancock, 11; 17, Waverly-South Shore, 9.5; 18, Frederick, 7; 19, Britton-Hecla, 2.

100m Hurdles: 1, Jonathan Doeden, 15.99; 3, Lucas Hinman, 18.73; 6, Garret Schroeder, 19.57.

300m Hurdles: 2, Jonathan Doeden, 44.99; 6, Tylan Glover, 48.66; 14, Garret Schroeder, 53.27.

100m Dash: 5, Trevor Pray, 11.92; 7, Jackson Oliver, 12.02; 16, Thomas Cranford, 12.53.

200m Dash: 5, Trevor Pray, 25.39; 7, Jackson Oliver, 25.46; 24, Garret Schroeder, 27.33; 36, Hunter Schaller, 28.92.

400m Dash: 6, Thomas Cranford, 56.97; 10, Austin Jones, 59.43; 26, Hunter Schaller, 1:07.16.

800m Run: 4, Treyton Diegel, 2:18.27; 6, Brandon Keith, 2:19.84; 15, Mitchell Koens, 2:30.62.

1600m Run: 19, Isaac Smith, 5:32.86.

4x100m Relay: 1, Groton (Trevor Pray, Darien Schabazz, Jackson Oliver, Lucas Hinman), 46.02.

4x200m Relay: 3, Groton (Jonathan Doeden, Austin Jones, Darien Shabazz, Lee Williams), 1:40.70.

4x400m Relay: 1, Groton (Treyton Diegel, Lee Williams, Bennett Shabazz, Sean Schuring), 3:43.04.

4x800m Relay: 1, Groton (Treyton Diegel, Brandon Keith, Isaac Smith, Mitchell Koens), 9:25.35.

1600m Sprint Medley: 1, Groton (Trevor Pray, Lucas Hinman, Bennett Shabazz, Sean Schuring), 3:48.02.

High Jump: 11, Austin Jones, 5-01; 13, Darien Shabazz, 4-11.

Long Jump: 9, Bennett Shabazz, 18-10.75; 14, Tylan Glover, 17-5.75.

Triple Jump: 1, Bennett Shabazz, 40-06; 17, Hunter Schaller, 30-7.5.

Discus: 1, McClain Lone, 133-3; 4, Luke Thorson, 125-5; 15, Grady O'Neill, 99-6.

Shot Put: 2, McClain Lone, 45-1.5; 10, Luke Thorson, 38-5; 40, Grady O'Neill, 29-8.

Pole Vault: 5, Tylan Glover, 9-0.

Girl's Division

Team Points: 1, Groton Area, 105; 2, West Central Area, 95; 3, Milbank Area, 89.5; 4, Wilmot, 66.5; 5, Waverly-South Shore, 50; 6, Aberdeen Roncalli, 45; 7, Waubay/Summit, 41; 8, Sisseton, 36.5; 9, Webster Area, 33; 10, Sargent County, 30.5; 11, Florence/Henry, 26; 12, Frederick, 20; 13, Clark/Willow Lake, 16; 13, Warner, 16; 15, Rosholt, 11; 15, Leola, 11; 17, Wheaton/Herman-Norcross, 9; 18, Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley, 9; 19, Britton-Hecla, 5.

100m Dash: 2, Harleigh Stange, 13.47; 9, Heather Lone, 14.10.

110m Hurdles: 10, Eliza Wanner, 21.30.

300m Hurdles: 2, Payton Maine, 50.99; 4, Eliza Wanner, 56.66.

200m Dash: 1, Harleigh Stange, 28.29; 11, Nicole Marzahn, 31.08; 39, Kaylin Kucker, 34.75.

400m Dash: 12, Regan Leicht, 1:14.52.

1600m Run: 15, Riley Gengerke, 6:53.83.

4x100m Relay: 1, Groton (Audrey Wanner, Katie Koehler, Harleigh Stange, Eliza Wanner), 53.13.

4x200m Relay: 3, Groton (Kaylin Kucker, Tady Glover, Katie Koehler, Kenzie McInerney), 2:00.65.

4x800m Relay: 3, Groton (Emily Thompson, Jodi Hinman, Riley Gengerke, Regan Leicht), 12:08.15.

1600m Sprint Medley: 8, Groton (Kaylin Kucker, Tady Glover, Jodi Hinman, Emily Thompson), 5:10.55.

High Jump: 10, Katie Koehler, 4-4; 15, Nicole Marzahn, 4-0.

Long Jump: 1, Harleigh Stange, 16-2.75; 8, Nicole Marzahn, 14-9; 10, Tady Glover, 14-6.

Triple Jump: 6, Katie Koehler, 30-8.25; 8, Nicole Marzahn, 29-1.5; 14, Tady Glover, 27-4.5.

Discus: 1, Jessica Bjerke, 112-8; 3, Nicole Fey, 93-11; 7, Jennie Doeden, 83-4; 8, Kaycie Hawkins, 82-1.

Shot Put: 2, Jessica Bjerke, 33-0; 8, Kaycie Hawkins, 30-1.5; 11, Jennie Doeden, 29-5.5; 12, Taylor Holm, 29-5; 13, Nicole Fey, 29-4; 16, Madison Sippel, 28-10.5.

Pole Vault: 7, Emily Thompson, 6-0.



FCCLA Style Show Part 1

Welcome to the 2017 Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America Annual Style Show. I am Madison Sippel (left), this year's FCCLA President. I would like to thank you all in advance for coming to see our showcase tonight. We have a night filled with beautiful prom dresses, phenomenal talent, and class sewing projects that are in blossom! We are going to start off the show with Audrey Wanner (right) singing "Can't Help Falling in Love".



That was beautiful! Great job Audrey! Good evening everyone, I'm Hannah Lewandowski (right), this year's FCCLA Vice President.

And I am Jessica Adler (left), this year's FCCLA Public Relations Officer. Hannah and I will be your emcees for the first half of tonight's show. We will begin our show by bringing out a group of FACS 2 students who sewed reversible satchel bags.

Groton Daily Independent

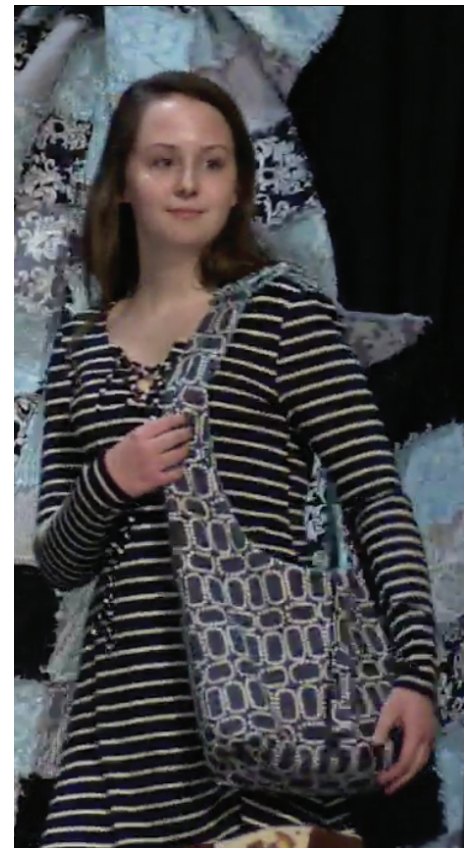
Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 9 of 40



First up is Claire Davidson, a sophomore, showing off her reversible satchel bag. Claire, a FACS 2 student, who hopes to continue with FACS throughout high school, enjoyed sewing this project and can't wait to use it this summer to go to the pool or with friends. Claire's bag is a beautiful shade of purple on one side and gray and white morrocan quatrefoil print on the other. Looks nifty Claire!



Up next is Emily Blocker, also a second year sewer, modeling her reversible satchel bag that is baby blue on the inside and white with blue and grey arrows on the outside. It features two baby blue pockets that should come in handy. Emily is going to use this bag for dance and going to the pool in the summer. Emily thought the bag was pretty easy to make and loved how it turned out. It is super cute Emily!



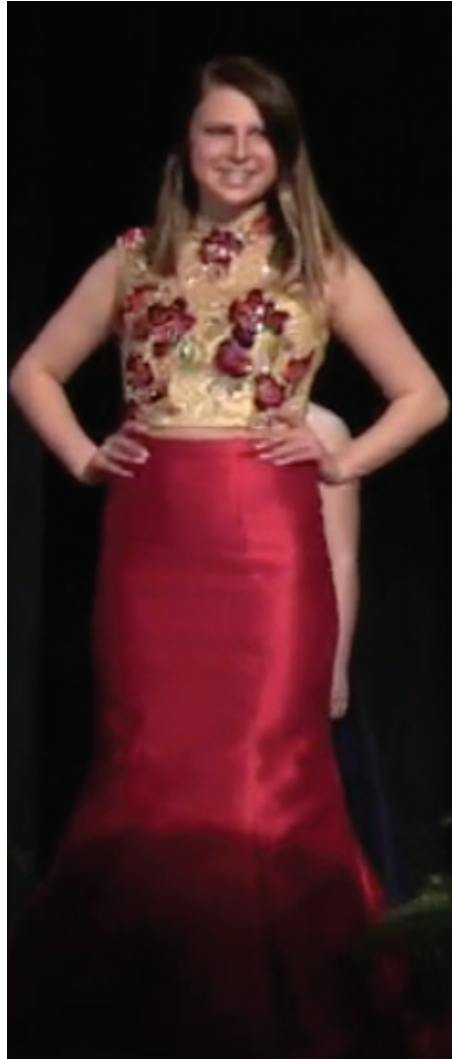
Our next model is Shyla Larson who really enjoyed sewing her bag, she found it to be very relaxing. One of the more challenging parts was dealing with her interfacing parts because it was thick and had a more fluffy texture like fleece, but in the long run was a very good choice because it gives her bag good body, yet is flexible and soft. She chose these two fabric because blue is her favorite color and the charcoal gray goes well with shade of blue. Shyla chose two different geometrical patterns so that way she could reverse it both ways and there would still be a cool pattern showing. She plans to use this bag for her dance bag and this summer when going to friend's houses. Super job Shyla!

Groton Daily Independent

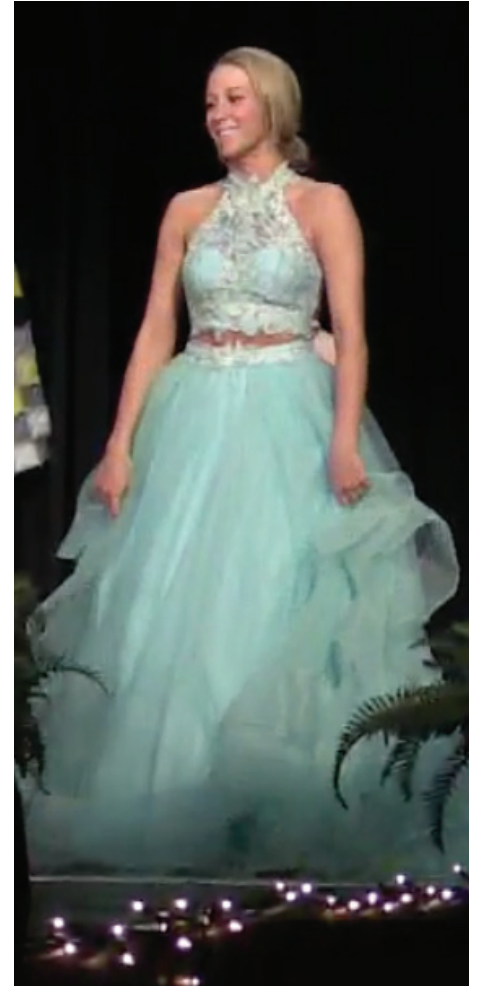
Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 10 of 40



Up next is Devan Howard with her satchel bag she made in her FACS class. The ties on her bag are made from the interior fabric so they provide a nice contrast; they are a nice feature to the bag, to be able to close it if you want to. The interior fabric she chose for the outside is a sturdy grey and white fabric with an ornate design. She chose a yellow and white striped fabric for the interior. The two fabrics are very different, but create a very chic look. She will use her bag for going to the lake and hanging out with friends. Super job Devan!



Here comes our FCCLA treasurer, Lexie Harder, rocking her red and gold prom dress that she wore to two proms, Groton's and more recently, Redfield's this past weekend. Her gorgeous dress is a two-piece. The top features the popular mesh netting featuring gold sequins with red sequin roses and has an open back. The mermaid style skirt is a red satin fabric, which is fitting at the top, but flares out at the bottom into a little train. This dress features a bussle in the back that allowed her to pin her train up making it easy for her dance! You look stunning Lexie!



Our next model is Katie Koehler, a four year FCCLAer. Katie's prom dress is a light blue two-piece. She picked this color because she thought it really went well with her skin tone and her eyes. The halter style top has a lacey nude netting with beading and elegantly croqueted looking flowers woven into it, this netting beautifully overlays the sweetheart neckline. The skirt is a very flowy, made of lightweight tulle fabric giving it a princess style. The dress has an open back that features intricate straps that create a very elegant look. Katie says this poofy prom dress made her feel like Cinderella on the special night. You look spectacular Katie!

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 11 of 40



Ah, here comes Erika Herr in her beautiful prom dress! She purchased her prom dress from Brides n' Belles and she knew when she put this dress on she could be herself in it. The navy blue ball gown dress has sparkles fading from silver to gold and then to navy blue. The dress has a high round neckline with an open back and the navy blue flows down to the ground. Erika really enjoyed herself at prom and happy to be able to dress up in her beautiful dress again. You look stunning Erika!



Our first quilter tonight is Macy Knecht showing off her quilt she made in FACS IV. She chose the Soul Blossom quilt pattern she found online, this pattern caught her eye on the first day of quilt pattern hunting. Macy chose to create her quilt using plum colors and accenting with black, white, and grey patterned squares and backing it with an incredibly soft, light silver-grey minky. Macy didn't have an enormous amount of sewing experience and it was a bit difficult to work with at first, but she eventually got the hang of lining up each tiny square. Macy is excited to be wrapped up in her cozy quilt through her long nights of studying at USD majoring in Pre-Dentistry. Splendid Job Macy!

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 12 of 40



Here comes Miss Shelby Hjernstad modeling her fun and bright quilt that represents her to a "T"!! Shelby choose a turquoise, black, and grey fabrics, several different patterns of fabrics are featured and all look exquisite together. Her pattern is the "Beacon of Hope" quilt pattern, she accented it with a thin gray polka border and wider turquoise border to make a dramatic effect. Shelby loves to sew and hopes this isn't her last sewing project. Way to go Shelby!!



Here is senior Halie Yarborough. She is showing off her t-shirt quilt that she made in FACS IV. She made this quilt out of her old DI t-shirts that she had accumulated over the years. The back of her quilt features black minky fabric and the border is a black cotton fabric. There were a few challenges considering that this is her first time quilting, but she overcame them and she is happy with the result. Halie plans to attend NSU in the fall and major in Secondary English Education and minor in Special Education. Outstanding job Halie!

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 13 of 40



Tage Taylor is up next showing off her grey, yellow, and blue quilt. The pattern mimics the look of a cozy log cabin pattern. She backed her quilt with a simple blue sheet. This quilt was challenging because the directions were slightly "off" so she had a hard time figuring out the pattern, but being the seasoned seamstress she is, she overcame this challenge and produced a masterpiece. Tage and her family enjoy quilting as a favorite pastime, so it's pretty safe to say that this will not be Tage's last quilt! Tage plans to attend Minnesota State University- Moorhead to double major in Art Education and Art Therapy. Exquisite work Tage!



Now we have the beautiful Payton Colestock, wait I mean Payton's beautiful blanket on stage! Her blanket's design is awesome ninja turtles, that she loves, with a black minky back. Payton loves to cuddle up with her blanket and her giant stuffed gorilla, and watch her favorite show, Criminal Minds, on Netflix. Payton also participates in volleyball, basketball, and golf. Looking great, Payton!

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 14 of 40



Coming down the runway now is Mackenzie Patton with her blanket she made in FACS I, it features a wolf pattern on a polar fleece fabric one side and a solid gray flannel backing on the other. She used her exquisite sewing abilities to create this beautiful blanket! Mackenzie has been sewing since 7th grade now and enjoys creating each project. Outstanding job Kenzie!



Here comes Jenny Pigors with her aqua and white polka dots flannel blanket that pairs nicely with the white backing fabric. Jenny enjoyed the sewing process, but says that one thing she disliked about making the blanket was when she ran out of bobbin thread and did not realize it! She enjoyed making this blanket because it was super soft. She plans to give it to her little sister. Jenny enjoys helping out with school plays and enjoys ice-skating. Super Job Jenny!

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 15 of 40

Today in Weather History

May 7, 1896: A strong, estimated F3 tornado moved northeast from 12 miles SSW of Clark, to 3 miles west of Watertown, to beyond Lake Kampeska. It was estimated to be on the ground for a distance of 30 miles. Near the start of the path, a woman was killed, and ten people were injured in one home. Parts of a home were found up to two miles away. The tornado also leveled barns near Watertown.

1840: A powerful tornado wrecked many boats at the Natchez Landing in Mississippi then plowed through the city on the bluff. The tornado killed 317 people and injured 109 others. The storm is currently the second deadliest tornado on record. The actual death toll could be higher as slaves were not counted.

1993: Serious flooding occurred in central Oklahoma following torrential rain and hail on this date through the 8th. Rainfall amounts on this date were generally around one inch. Oklahoma City, OK then recorded 6.64 inches of rain on the 8th, the third greatest daily rainfall amount ever observed in the city. Extensive flooding resulted, which killed four people, and the fire department had to rescue 183 others. More than 2,000 homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed. Damages were estimated at \$8 million.

1989: Thirty-two cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, and 24-hour snowfall totals of 7.2 inches at Buffalo and 10.7 inches at Rochester New York were records for the month of May.

1964 - The temperature at White Mountain 2, located in California, dipped to 15 degrees below zero to set a record for May for the continental U.S. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thirty-one cities in the western U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 93 degrees at Portland OR and San Jose CA were the warmest of record for so early in the season. The high of 92 degrees at Quillayute WA was a record for the month of May. The temperature at Sacramento CA hit 105 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)






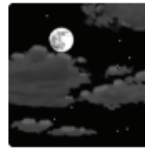

1988 - A powerful storm in the north central U.S. produced up to three feet of snow in the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming and the mountains of south central Montana. Up to five inches of rain drenched central Montana in less than 24 hours, and flash flooding in Wyoming caused a million dollars damage. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thirty-two cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, and 24 hour snowfall totals of 7.2 inches at Buffalo NY and 10.7 inches at Rochester NY were records for the month of May. While northerly winds ushered unseasonably cold air into the eastern U.S., temperatures warmed rapidly in the Great Plains Region, reaching the 90s in Kansas. The temperature at Manhattan KS soared from a low of 30 degrees to a high of 88 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Gale force winds lashed the northern and central Pacific coast. A wind gust of 52 mph at Eureka CA established a record for the month of May. Strong winds over northeastern Colorado, associated with a fast moving Pacific cold front, gusted to 63 mph at Peetz. Snow developed over the northwest mountains of Wyoming late in the day, and Yellowstone National Park was whitened with 6 to 14 inches. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

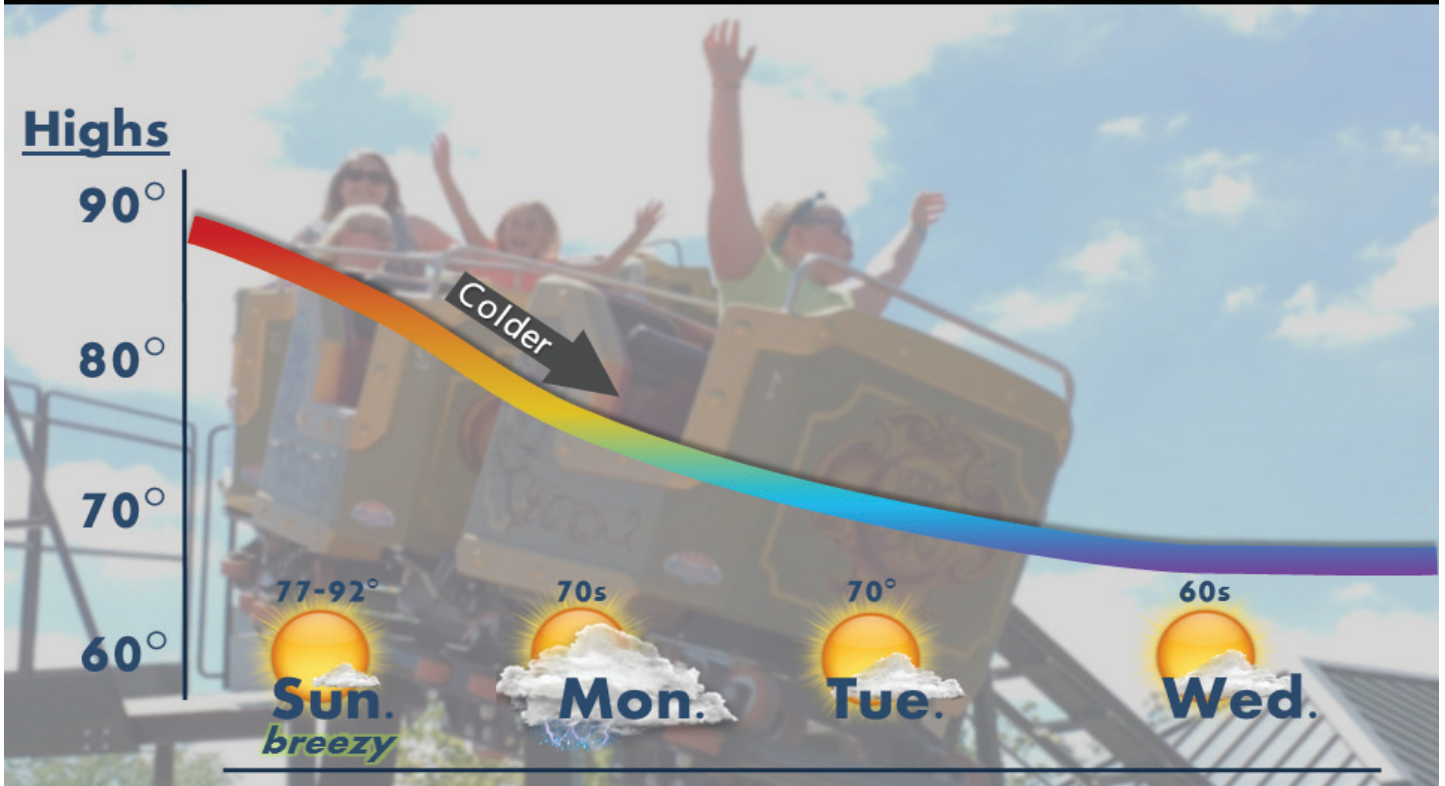
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 16 of 40

Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Chance Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 83 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 70 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 67 °F



Very Warm Today, then a Cool-Down



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 5/7/2017 5:17 AM Central

Published on: 05/07/2017 at 5:24AM

Well above normal temperatures and dry conditions will be the rule today, as breezy winds out of the southeast help usher in upper 70s to near 90 degree temperatures. The warmest temperatures and strongest winds are expected west of the James River Valley. Unsettled weather will return to northern South Dakota late tonight into Monday evening, with a few showers and possibly a few thunderstorms. Near normal temperatures and dry weather will then return to the region.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 17 of 40

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 78.9 F at 4:03 PM

Low Outside Temp: 43.1 F at 6:40 AM

High Gust: 17.0 Mph at 5:51 PM

Snow: Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 94° in 1928

Record Low: 24° in 1982

Average High: 66°F

Average Low: 41°F

Average Precip in May: 0.71

Precip to date in May: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 4.44

Precip Year to Date: 1.98

Sunset Tonight: 8:48 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:11 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, May 07, 2017, issued 4:09 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Hamrick based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 18 of 40



JUSTICE FOR THE POOR AND NEEDY

Have you ever been told the reason an ostrich hides its head in the sand is because it is frightened? If you have and you believe it, you have been led astray. They do, however, run in circles when they are frightened. And the male ostrich will dig a hole that is six feet by eight feet for the female ostrich to lay her eggs in. This is where the fable of the ostrich hiding its head seems to have come from.

There are times, however, when most of us "feel" like hiding our heads underneath a pillow or standing behind an object where no one can see us. Often we are filled with a sense of inadequacy or "beneath others" because everyone seems to have more than we do or be more than we are. Or, perhaps, we feel "poor" in the sense that we have not been blest by God as much as others.

David had a solution for this "feeling": "I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor; and upholds the cause of the needy." In other words, David wants us to know that things are like they are because God designed them as they are for His purpose. If we feel poor - or lacking, - God will "make things right" because He is ultimately responsible for everyone being treated rightly and with justice. Our God is a just God and will not allow His own to suffer unfairly. He is at work working His will.

David also wrote that "God will uphold the needy." It may be that when our needs exceed our resources He is trying to get our attention to trust Him. His love always surrounds us as His plan to make us Christ-like unfolds.

Prayer: Lord, when things aren't right it does not mean that You are treating us wrong. It means it's time to trust You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 140:12 I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 19 of 40

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Saturday:

Dakota Cash

05-24-28-29-35

(five, twenty-four, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$132,000

Hot Lotto

07-11-26-36-42, Hot Ball: 10

(seven, eleven, twenty-six, thirty-six, forty-two; Hot Ball: ten)

Estimated jackpot: \$6.19 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$25 million

Powerball

11-21-31-41-59, Powerball: 21, Power Play: 3

(eleven, twenty-one, thirty-one, forty-one, fifty-nine; Powerball: twenty-one; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$147 million

Texas adoption agencies could ban Jews, gays, Muslims

By MEREDITH HOFFMAN, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Parents seeking to adopt children in Texas could soon be rejected by state-funded or private agencies with religious objections to them being Jewish, Muslim, gay, single, or interfaith couples, under a proposal in the Republican-controlled Legislature.

Five other states have passed similar laws protecting faith-based adoption organizations that refuse to place children with gay parents or other households on religious grounds — but Texas' rule would extend to state-funded agencies. Only South Dakota's is similarly sweepingly.

The bill had been scheduled for debate and approval Saturday in the state House, but lawmakers bogged down with other matters. It now is expected to come up next week.

Republican sponsors of Texas' bill say it is designed to support the religious freedom of adoption agencies and foster care providers. Many of the agencies are private and faith-based but receive state funds.

But opponents say it robs children of stable homes while funding discrimination with taxpayer dollars.

"This would allow adoption agencies to turn away qualified, loving parents who are perhaps perfect in every way because the agency has a difference in religious belief," said Catherine Oakley, senior legislative counsel for the Human Rights Campaign. "This goes against the best interest of the child."

The bill also blatantly violates the Constitution, Oakley added.

"As a governmental entity, Texas is bound to treat people equally under the law," said Oakley. "This is a violation of equal protection under the law."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 20 of 40

State Rep. James Frank, the bill's author, said it's designed to address the state's foster care crisis by making "reasonable accommodations so everyone can participate in the system."

"Everyone is welcome. But you don't have to think alike to participate," said Frank, a Republican from rural Wichita Falls, near Texas' border with Oklahoma.

A federal judge in 2015 ruled that the state's foster care system violated youngsters' constitutional rights. Republican Gov. Greg Abbott made fixing it an "emergency" priority and the Legislature has increased funding while backing a number of major changes.

Suzanne Bryant, an Austin-based adoption attorney who works with LGBT clients and was one of the first individuals to have a legal same-sex marriage in Texas, said the bill fails to provide alternatives for prospective parents rebuffed by adoption agencies.

"Say you call an agency and say, 'I'm Jewish,' and it's a Catholic agency and they hang up on you," said Bryant. "The bill says you can be referred to another agency, but there's no mechanism to set that up."

Not only could agencies turn away hopeful parents under the religious freedom provision, but they could require children in the foster care system to comply with their faith-based requirements, said Bryant.

That means child welfare organizations could send LGBT kids to conversion therapy, a treatment designed to turn people straight — which the Pan American Health Organization calls a "serious threat to the health and well-being of affected people." And they could deny young people contraception and abortions.

"If a 17-year-old who is sexually active wants birth control, the burden to prove that constitutional right is on the child," said Bryant. "They don't have their parents advocating for them and supposed to go it alone against the system."

Frank said most adoptions happen through the state's Child Protective Services, which would not be subject to the religious freedom mandate, though outside agencies that receive state funding would be. He said his bill "codifies" the choices adoption agencies are already making as they select parents.

"My guess is if you have an LGBT agency they're going to pick an LGBT family, and if you have a Baptist agency they may be more likely to pick a Baptist family," Frank said. "They're free to do that and should be free to do that."

Frank also said the bill directs state child services to ensure that other outside adoption providers without religious objections are made available to help would-be adoptive parents who get turned away by any who do raise objections.

But his proposal is just one of 24 pending bills in the Texas Legislature that LGBT advocates say encourage discrimination.

This story has been corrected to better reflect background on a federal judge's 2015 ruling on Texas foster care system.

Forest grazing important to South Dakota national forest

By AL VAN ZEE, Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — The Black Hills National Forest is home to great stands of ponderosa pine, plentiful numbers of wild game, and innumerable small animals, plants, birds, and insects.

But the Black Hills is also one of the most important grazing lands in the region for area ranchers. Thousands of head of cattle spend much of the year in the canyons and meadows of the Black Hills. And local ranchers depend on the Black Hills for seasonal pastures for their livestock. The relationship between the National Forests and ranchers in the West has been long and profitable for both parties.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 21 of 40

"Range condition decreases in the absence of grazing," said Aaron Thomson, president of the Spearfish Livestock Association.

Ranchers like Thomson appreciate the availability of National Forest grazing lands, and he believes it is a better alternative for summer grazing than open pasture.

"I'd rather have my cattle in 80-degree shade in the summertime than out on the open plains," Thomson told the Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2p1VmD7>).

Grasses available in the Black Hills meadows still include some native species, but also include some "introduced" species like timothy grass, brome grass, and Kentucky blue grass, said Julie Wheeler, the zoned rangeland management specialist for the Northern Hills District of the Black Hills National Forest.

The Northern Hills Ranger District encompasses an area roughly corresponding to the forested areas of Lawrence County, and there are 36 ranchers using the forest grazing lands.

Those ranchers have to meet a certain set of criteria, Wheeler said.

Ranchers have to own the livestock they will be grazing. They must be registered landowners. They must also pay a fee for the use of land, which varies in different parts of the Black Hills according to the quality of the grass, the availability of water, the amount of access, and its proximity to the ranches surrounding the National Forest.

"Fifty percent of the grazing fee receipts are returned in the form of Range Betterment Funds that are used for on-the-ground rehabilitation and ranger improvement projects in the forest or region where the fees were collected," Wheeler said.

Water is one critical factor in the usage of the Black Hills for grazing.

"If you don't have water, you don't have grazing," Wheeler said.

The Black Hills offers better, more-consistent groundwater than many prairie pastures, Thomson said.

The Black Hills has few naturally occurring lakes or ponds. Most of the watering holes in the western Black Hills have been created by small dams across streams. The ranchers also make use of water tanks fed by natural springs.

Ranchers and the Forest Service usually share the cost of construction of tanks and dams. The Forest Service usually supplies the equipment, and the ranchers supply the labor to install it.

"It's their material. It's our sweat," Thomson said.

A range that has adequate water for a given number of cattle one year may not have enough water the next. Ranchers like Thomson explain that while they like the quality of the groundwater, there are challenges using what's available.

"The big problem with water is distribution. There's a tendency for cattle to congregate around water. That can cause overgrazing next to water," Thomson said.

That's especially true when it gets dry. Water has to be hauled to the water tanks when the streams dry up and springs quit running.

"Hauling water is the rancher's responsibility," Wheeler said. "They have the option to bring in temporary tanks."

Temporary cross fencing, which divides the forest into separate pastures, is also used to divert cattle to alternate pastures when the rain doesn't come. The installation of that fencing is the rancher's responsibility although the Forest Service supplies materials, Wheeler said.

Both Wheeler and Thomson agree that fencing is an issue that requires coordination between ranchers and forest managers. Good fences are difficult to build and maintain in the steep, rough, rocky terrain that makes up much of the Black Hills National Forest.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 22 of 40

For ranchers everywhere, fence maintenance is one of their most time-consuming jobs, and that's especially true for those running cattle in the Black Hills. Storms and fallen trees necessitate frequent fence-fixing missions. Elk can trample and break wire and posts. Storm runoff can fill cattle guards with mud.

Wheeler pointed out that ranchers have no property rights to their Forest Service allotments.

"It's a privilege for the permittees," she said.

The Black Hills National Forest was set aside for multiple uses, and those uses "go on concurrently with grazing," Wheeler said.

She identified the major uses of the Black Hills National Forest as cattle grazing, timber harvesting, mining, hunting, and recreation.

Both ranchers and forest managers must accommodate those other uses. Those multiple uses create a complex choreography that requires constant compromise between the varying interests. Under the system, nobody gets everything they want, said Thompson.

With all of those uses, people are continually using the trails that lead through the woods. Hikers, miners, campers, hikers, and hunters sometimes drive through gates and leave them open. Ranchers like Thompson say gates require constant watching.

Thompson reflected that he and his fellow stockmen deal with the problem, "Mostly by pulling our hair out."

Thompson added, however, that he and his fellow ranchers have an ongoing dialogue with local ATV and off-road groups, and the effort has had positive results including a greater awareness of the need to close gates and the need to respect fences.

With the coming of an extensive system of fences in the Black Hills, branding isn't as critical as it once was. But it's still an important practice that helps to prevent cattle from one herd mixing with other herds. It also helps forest managers to identify animals that may have strayed into the wrong pastures.

Thompson said the state brand boards ride herd on the registration of the brands, but the work of keeping the herds from mixing requires alertness on the part of ranchers and range managers.

Predators are another concern for ranchers. According to Thompson, cattle are vulnerable to the vagaries of predators, and it's a vulnerability that other users of the forest sometimes don't understand or have much sympathy for.

But it doesn't interfere with the relationship between managers and ranchers, according to Wheeler.

"I'm not aware of any major issue that we have when it comes to predation," she said.

In any case, predators are usually an issue handled by state wildlife managers, requiring three-way coordination between ranchers, the Forest Service, and the state Game, Fish, and Parks Department.

Thompson believes a wildlife issue that is more problematic for ranchers than predators is elk. Large elk herds can occasionally overgraze some allotments and interfere with access to water for cattle. Ranchers aren't free to simply drive them off, Thompson said. The migration of large deer and elk herds is one difficulty that ranchers have to tolerate as part of the bargain, he said, but those problems can usually be worked out through communication with the wildlife management personnel at the state level.

Finally, there is the issue of judging how many cattle a given section of national forest land can support. It's a difficult problem that requires long experience in managing wooded rangeland, a lot of data, and good judgment.

The Forest Service has been in the business of range management for more than a century now, Wheeler said. So there is a hoard of grazing experience contained in the history of the Forest Service grazing activities.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 23 of 40

That's where good judgment comes in, Thompson said. It's necessary in deciding which result is the reasonable and achievable objective and in deciding which result will benefit which parties.

For the Forest Service, the task of good judgment is not static. It's changing constantly. When changes have to be made to grazing procedures and policies, they are not made lightly.

"We have to do an environmental analysis," Wheeler said of the more extensive changes that are made.

But there are routine changes in grazing techniques that are undertaken with the cooperation, and sometimes at the behest, of the ranchers.

"We have new information and new science coming out, and it evolves," Wheeler said.

Those changes are usually accommodated with regular communication between the Forest Service and ranchers.

"We have a pretty good relationship with the permittees we have here," Wheeler said.

Thompson agrees with Wheeler on the quality of the relationship between the two parties.

"It's good and getting better. It's trending upward," Thompson said.

Nonprofit working to protect homes in South Dakota

By MIKE ANDERSON, Rapid City Journal

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The grass is a vibrant green outside Jackie and Austin Ice's trailer home, rejuvenated by a barely controlled wildfire last fall. The prairie meanders into the sweep of hills on the other side of the road, where the Wounded Knee Massacre site lies.

Sitting on the steps of her new deck one warm afternoon in April, Jackie Ice, 47, recalled hearing stories of restless spirits when she was growing up. The deck is attached to a sturdy wooden frame built around her trailer home and capped with a metal roof, its ribbed panels a darker shade of the springtime jade spreading across the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The color is intentional, designed to blend into the landscape.

Erected last summer, the wood and metal shelter can't protect the Ices' fragile home from wildfires, but it has kept out the slashing winds, snow and rain. "It's a blessing," Jackie told the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2pAKKhN>).

Without it, she said, "eventually our house would have caved in."

It is one of 10 pole structures raised over trailer homes on Pine Ridge last year by Waves For Water in an attempt to push back against the housing crisis there. The reservation has hundreds of dilapidated homes, many of them without running water, heat or electricity.

The Los Angeles-based international nonprofit humanitarian organization plans to build dozens more in the coming years. The pole structures, which cost around \$25,000 each, are built and installed for free by Waves For Water.

In addition to its work on Pine Ridge, the nonprofit also provides disaster relief and clean water to more than two dozen developing nations across the world, including Haiti, India, Peru and Nepal.

"I don't look for what's wrong, I look for what's missing," said Jack Rose, a project developer with Waves For Water. "And what's missing here is good housing."

Rose, 68, says the pole structures are built "to last for generations." He calls his pilot program the House-2-Home project. It's his way of helping to reverse what he describes as a historic downward spiral in Indian Country by contributing to the positive forces already at work in one of the poorest places in the U.S.

To that end, Rose has partnered with local businesses, community leaders and nonprofit groups on the reservation over the past year. "The real story is the people, the Lakota," Rose said. "People who

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 24 of 40

have nothing and are surviving.”

Unemployment on the reservation has reached as high as 85 percent in recent years, but Rose’s group is helping to fix that too.

Waves For Water hires crews of young Oglala Lakota men and women to build the pole structures at a wage of \$10 an hour. If they don’t know how to work a saw or hammer, that’s OK, Rose says, because his team will teach them as apprentices in carpentry.

A designer by trade as well as a self-described “conjurer” and “freelance problem solver,” the silver and wispy haired Rose grew up surfing in Santa Monica Bay, with the “ocean in our front yard, mountains in our backyard.”

“Growing up in LA, exposed to the film (storytelling) industry,” Rose wrote in an email to the Journal, “it seemed normal to imagine anything, then tell a story and watch it come to life.”

Developing an interest in humanitarian work as a young man, he started catching rainwater on the Hawaiian island of Kauai in 1998 and installed his first catchment system in Kenya in 2004. His son, Jon — also a surfer — founded Waves For Water in 2009, and the Roses have continued to provide humanitarian aid all over the world ever since.

Rose first came to Pine Ridge in the summer of 2012. Waves For Water was invited by the White Plumes — a well-known and respected family in Lakota territory — to install a pair of rainwater storage and filtration systems, similar to the kinds the group has introduced to communities in Africa and South America.

“He never expects a thank you,” said Alex White Plume. “He just does it and leaves.”

Rose says he intends to eventually install rain catchers at each of the homes equipped with one of his pole structures.

Rose remembers his visit in 2012 when he first saw the trailers scattered across the far flung reaches of the reservation, baking in the summer heat, their sagging roofs worn to tatters by powerful winds and rain.

Some are known to house as many as 30 people at a time, and many leak so badly that their floors and ceilings have slowly rotted away.

“Off the reservation they’d be red-tagged, considered uninhabitable,” Rose said. “That was planted in my brain.”

That fall, Hurricane Sandy came crashing into the East Coast. It was while he and his team were helping rebuild homes amid the destruction in New Jersey that Rose’s thoughts drifted back to Pine Ridge and the idea for the pole structures came to him.

He sketched out a rough design and filed it away.

“There’s a saying in the nonprofit world,” Rose said. “Perfect is the enemy of good.’ There are no perfect solutions — but there are good ones.”

To kick-start the project, Waves For Water partnered with Armfield Construction out of Malibu, Calif., to serve as a consultant and secured \$500,000 in funding from Beach Body, a health and fitness company also based in California.

He also formed partnerships within the reservation that were a key part of the project. It’s Rose’s way of “helping the helpers,” as he puts it.

The Lakota Prairie Ranch Resort in Kyle has served as the Waves For Water headquarters, with owner Rusty Puckett — who owns Medicine Root Development, a licensed contracting company — contributing heavily to the material and construction side of things.

Rose has been living in a cabin on Puckett’s land. He plans on displaying a variety of alternative affordable housing prototypes at the Lakota Prairie Ranch over the next year, including an A-frame structure

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 25 of 40

designed and built with Puckett's help.

"It would be pretty much impossible to do what we're doing on the scale that we are without Rusty," Rose said. "He's, like, the best builder in the universe. To me he's a shining star. His contribution is really invaluable to the project."

On a recent weekend at the White Plume homestead, Alex White Plume looked on as a dust devil surged through the grass and peeled a layer of aluminum siding off an unprotected structure.

A similar wind howled over the hill a few weeks ago where his brother, Percy White Plume of the Horse Spirit Society, lives. If not for the pole structure that Rose helped install to protect his home, Percy said, "I think it would have torn the roof right off."

Percy hopes to someday remove the trailer entirely and use the pole structure as the bones of a house.

For Harrison and LaDonna No Neck, the addition of the pole structure has been a money saver. Keeping their trailer heated with propane usually costs them around \$500 a month. But with the pole structure providing insulation this past winter, the family's bill was reduced by more than half.

"It's been a big help," Harrison said.

The house heats up "like a microwave" in the summer, he added, but the shade from the new metal roof has already proved effective at keeping the inside cool.

"It's nice to have a dry house," LaDonna said, remembering how rain used to leak into the trailer. "The roof is preventing all that."

An added benefit to the pole structures, Rose said, is that if the No Necks ever want to get a new trailer, they can slide the replacement into the spot where the old one used to be.

"Think of the structure as a carport for a house," Rose said.

The next phase of Rose's project is to help repair the interiors of some of the homes where he's already put up pole structures, and to install double-pane windows and insulated entry doors where necessary.

"The cost of building new homes is prohibitive," Rose said, estimating the cost of a single unit to be around \$150,000. "But fixing these up is affordable."

This year, Rose hopes to double his funding and build at least 20 more pole structures. He's already got a waiting list of a dozen families.

A single team of six people can put up a pole structure in a week, he said, so it should be quick work once he starts hiring more teams of workers and taking in volunteers.

When asked how long his group intends to continue working in Pine Ridge, Rose replied: "Pretty much forever. That's how we are everywhere. We never leave."

Rose sees his work in Pine Ridge as "a form of penance. Our current success was and is built on the graves of our predecessors. I think we are therefore obligated to help those who have suffered from the European invasion of North and South America."

Jackie Ice keeps a reminder of that history inside her home: a brass button from a 7th Calvary uniform that she found in the dirt when she was a teenager.

She's glad she doesn't have to climb up on the roof anymore to slather hot tar onto the leaky spots. The work is difficult enough without having to struggle with her prosthetic leg. Repairing the trailer's rotting roof is usually her husband Austin's job, but he suffered from a nearly fatal accident last year when he was driving through Gordon, Neb., and swerved to avoid an oncoming vehicle. He's only recently regained the ability to walk.

Sitting on the steps of the deck, Jackie began to cry. An independent woman who has worked for years in substance abuse counseling and now serves as a youth advocate in Pine Ridge, today she is one of the "helpers" on the reservation that Rose is working to lift up.

She says they don't have any money, that she and Austin have to ask for rides or hitchhike to get

around.

But the roof doesn't leak anymore. And at night the two of them can sit out on their new deck and look up at the stars.

"It's hard for me," she says, "to ask for help."

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

Nonprofit surpasses fundraising goal for outdoor music venue

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A nonprofit raising money to build an outdoor music venue at Falls Park in Sioux Falls said it has surpassed its \$1 million goal.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2p4igJU>) reported the Friends of Levitt Shell Sioux Falls on Monday announced it raised \$1.13 million during a five-month fundraising drive to help cover construction of the proposed Levitt Shell project.

The \$4.6 million roofed amphitheater and shell would offer at least 50 free performances each year. A previous fundraising campaign secured more than \$700,000 for the project.

Jennifer Kirby, chairperson of the nonprofit, said more than 50 people volunteered to solicit donations from more than 200 community members and businesses.

"Seeing so many people step forward . and just the willingness to say 'This is our Sioux Falls. We're going to do what we need to do to make this a better place to live is really special to me,'" she said.

The national Levitt Foundation and the city of Sioux Falls will also contribute to the project.

Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation director Don Kearney said construction is expected to start in 2018 with the first concerts being held in summer 2019.

"By having dedicated programming down there that people can rely on every year . I really believe this is going to transform downtown," Kearney said.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

Deadwood commission makes \$2 mil commitment to plaza project

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — By a 3-2 margin Monday night, the Deadwood City Commission approved a recommendation by the historic preservation commission to commit \$2 million toward two proposed downtown plazas.

The Deadwood Revitalization Committee hopes the two Main Street plazas will become public gathering places for residents and visitors.

Deadwood Historic Preservation Officer Kevin Kuchenbecker said the funds and plans will first be vetted through the appropriate state and national entities governing historic preservation before any funds are disbursed.

City officials hope their \$2 million pledge will attract other public and private commitments to the plaza to help reduce the city's overall financial contribution to the project.

"To me, that is the deciding factor," said Commissioner Gary Todd. "If it's \$2 million in matching funds, any time you can bring in outside money, that is a win-win situation."

Mayor Chuck Turbiville and Commissioner Mark Speirs were the dissenting votes on the commitment. Speirs said he's not sure the project should be classified as historic preservation.

"We would definitely be looking at doing this in a bonding project," Speirs said. "Personally, I believe this is a Deadwood economic development issue, not a historic preservation issue."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 27 of 40

Commissioner Dave Ruth said he is confident the historic preservation money will be spent appropriately.

"There are plenty of rules in place to make sure it is an appropriate expenditure," Todd said.

Plankinton man found guilty of 26 sex abuse charges

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Plankinton man has been convicted on sex abuse charges involving two minor victims.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says an Aurora County jury found 43-year-old Christian Thomas guilty on 26 counts, including fourth degree rape, sexual exploitation of a minor and possession of child pornography.

Thomas faces up to 315 years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for July 5.

Tense France chooses new president, deciding Europe's fate

By ANGELA CHARLTON and SAMUEL PETREQUIN, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French voters decided Sunday whether to back pro-business independent Emmanuel Macron or far-right populist Marine Le Pen as their next president, casting ballots in an unusually tense and important presidential election that also could decide Europe's future.

With Macron the pollsters' favorite, voting stations opened across mainland France at 8 a.m. (0600 GMT) under the watch of 50,000 security forces guarding against extremist attacks. Polling agency projections and initial official results are expected as soon as the final stations close at 8 p.m. (1800 GMT.)

A security alert prompted the evacuation Sunday of the courtyard outside the Louvre museum where Macron had planned to celebrate election night. Campaign spokeswoman Pauline Calmes told The Associated Press that the Esplanade du Louvre, in downtown Paris, was evacuated as a precaution.

Calmes did not specify the nature of the threat, but says police ordered the evacuation. The Louvre already was being heavily guarded after an extremist attacker targeted soldiers near the museum during the presidential campaign.

France's Interior Ministry said voter turnout at midday was running slightly lower than during the last presidential runoff in 2012. The ministry said 28 percent of eligible voters had cast ballots, compared with a half-day tally of 31 percent five years ago.

Commentators think a low turnout would benefit Le Pen, whose supporters are seen as more committed and therefore more likely to show up to vote.

Macron voted in the seaside resort of Le Touquet in northern France alongside his wife, Brigitte Macron. Le Pen cast her ballot just a hundred kilometers away in Henin-Beaumont, a small town controlled by her National Front party.

Macron, 39, a former Socialist economy minister and one-time banker who ran as an independent, was all smiles and petted a black dog as he stepped out of his vacation home. For security reasons, he was driven to his polling station nearby.

Le Pen, 48, was able to vote without any incident after feminist activists were briefly detained a couple of hours earlier Sunday for hanging a big anti-Le Pen banner from a church in the northern town.

Meanwhile, police and soldiers worked to secure the symbolic Paris venues where the next president will celebrate victory.

Macron picked the dignified internal courtyard of the renowned palace-turned-museum as the location for his celebration party if he wins. If Le Pen wins, she plans to celebrate at the Chalet du Lac in the Bois de Vincennes, a vast park on Paris' eastern edge.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 28 of 40

The most closely watched and unpredictable French presidential campaign in recent memory ended with a hacking attack and document leak targeting Macron on Friday night. France's government cybersecurity agency, ANSSI, is investigating the hack, which Macron's team says was aimed at destabilizing the vote.

France's election campaign commission said Saturday that "a significant amount of data" — and some fake information — was leaked on social networks following the hacking attack on Macron. The leaked documents appeared largely mundane, and the perpetrators remain unknown.

The fate of the European Union may hang in the balance as France's 47 million voters decide whether to risk handing the presidency to Le Pen, who dreams of quitting the bloc and its common currency, or to play it safer with Macron, an unabashed pro-European who wants to strengthen the EU.

Global financial markets and France's neighbors are watching carefully. A "Frexit" would be far more devastating than Britain's departure, since France is the second-biggest economy to use the euro. The country also is a central pillar of the EU and its mission of keeping post-war peace via trade and open borders.

The vote will help gauge the strength of global populism after the victories last year of a referendum to take Britain out of the EU and Donald Trump's U.S. presidential campaign. In France, it is a test of whether voters are ready to overlook the racist and anti-Semitic past of Le Pen's National Front party.

Le Pen has broadened the party's appeal by tapping into — and fueling — anger at globalization and fears associated with immigration and Islamic extremism. Macron has argued that France must rethink its labor laws to better compete globally and appealed for unity and tolerance that Le Pen called naive.

Either candidate would lead France into uncharted territory, since neither comes from the mainstream parties that dominate parliament and have run the country for decades. The winner will have to try to build a parliamentary majority in elections next month to make major changes.____

John Leicester in Paris, Alex Turnbull in Henin-Beaumont and Chris den Hond in Le Touquet contributed.

Jared Kushner's sister woos China's 'golden visa' investors

By GILLIAN WONG, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The sister of President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner has been in China courting individual investors with a much-criticized federal visa program that provides a path toward obtaining U.S. green cards.

Kushner's sister Nicole Meyer promoted 1 Journal Square, a Kushner Companies' development in Jersey City, at an event Sunday at the Four Seasons Hotel in Shanghai, according to participants.

The pitch seeks to raise funds from Chinese investors through the U.S. government's EB-5 visa program, which allows permanent U.S. residency for those who finance projects that create a certain amount of jobs.

The event was organized by Beijing-based immigration services company QWOS and Kushner Companies, according to an advertisement on the Chinese company's website, which says the project is seeking \$150 million from 300 EB-5 investors.

Kushner, a senior adviser to Trump, stepped down as chief executive of the Kushner Companies in January and has sold stakes in several properties to help allay concerns about conflict of interest. His family's promotional efforts in China come amid widespread criticism of the EB-5 visa program, which has grown popular among wealthy foreigners seeking to move to the U.S. but faces allegations of fraud and misuse.

Critics say many of the investments purportedly aimed at assisting poor areas of the U.S. have instead

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 29 of 40

wound up going to projects in more affluent neighborhoods, while many programs have been badly hit by fraud scandals. U.S. lawmakers have been weighing proposed changes to the program, which would likely affect companies such as Kushner Cos. should it want to raise funds from such investors. Earlier this month, Congress extended the EB-5 program in its current form through Sept. 30.

Staffers at QWOS' offices in Beijing and Shanghai either refused to comment or did not answer repeated calls. There was no immediate response to a request for comment emailed to Kushner Companies Sunday.

Now led by Kushner's relatives, the Kushner Companies had earlier been negotiating with China's Anbang Insurance Group to provide what could be hundreds of millions of dollars in equity for redevelopment of a Manhattan office building. Those negotiations, which had drawn criticism from lawmakers and government ethics experts, ended in March. Critics saw it as a potential attempt by China to curry favor with the White House.

The Chinese company's advertisements for the Journal Square development described the project as "Kushner 1," with punchy subtitles declaring that it has "government support" and is "founded by celebrity developers," without elaborating.

Bi Ting, a 34-year-old woman who attended the Shanghai event, said that having the name of the U.S. president's son-in-law on it was "a bonus for the project."

Bi said Kushner's sister Meyer spoke for more than 10 minutes, describing the history of the Kushner family and the highlights of the project. Meyer spoke to the audience in English, aided by a translator, and didn't take any questions, Bi said.

The proposed EB-5 investment would account for around 15 percent of the total investment of \$976 million required for the project. According to QWOS's advertisements, the development comprises two 66-story towers of 1,476 luxury apartments, as well as commercial and retail space.

Another person who attended the forum in Shanghai, who would only give her surname, Wang, said people in the conference said that Trump's son-in-law was a shareholder of the Kushner Companies, but "he has already quit."

"I don't know if the connection with the president is good or not, it's hard to say," added Wang, who is from Shanghai.

The other participant, Bi, who is pregnant, said she was considering immigrating to America to give her child an academic environment that is "more relaxing; where one can pursue real interests and where the child can do something that they really want to do."

Organizers prevented reporters from attending the event, saying it was a private function even though it is publicly advertised. On Saturday, Meyer spoke at a similar promotional conference in Beijing, details of which were first reported by the Washington Post and the New York Times.

Associated Press researchers Fu Ting in Shanghai and Henry Hou in Beijing contributed to this report.

82 freed Chibok schoolgirls arrive in Nigeria's capital

By BASHIR ADIGUN, Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — The 82 freed Chibok schoolgirls arrived in Nigeria's capital on Sunday to meet President Muhammadu Buhari as anxious families awaited an official list of names and looked forward to reuniting three years after the mass abduction.

The newly released girls arrived at the Abuja airport and were met by the Buhari's chief of staff, presidential adviser Femi Adesina said. The president was expected to meet with the schoolgirls at 4 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 30 of 40

local time (1500GMT).

The 82 girls were freed Saturday in exchange for an unspecified number of detained suspected Boko Haram extremists, Buhari's office said in a statement.

This is the largest negotiated release so far of the nearly 300 girls whose abduction in 2014 highlighted the threat of Nigeria's homegrown extremists who are linked to the Islamic State group. Before Saturday's release, 195 of the girls had been captive. Now 113 of the girls remain unaccounted for.

A first group of 21 girls were released in October as Nigeria announced it had begun negotiations with the extremist group. At the time, the government denied making an exchange for Boko Haram suspects or paying ransom.

The girls released in October have been reported to be in government care in Abuja for medical attention, trauma counseling and rehabilitation, according to the government. Human rights groups have criticized the decision to keep the girls in custody in Abuja, nearly 900 kilometers (560 miles) from Chibok.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which along with the Swiss government mediated months of negotiations between Nigeria's government and Boko Haram, said the newly released girls soon would meet with their families.

The ICRC also tweeted what might be the first public image of the freed schoolgirls on Sunday, showing a line of young women wearing shirts with the ICRC logo waiting to board a helicopter.

The ICRC said it had acted as a neutral intermediary to transport the freed girls into Nigerian government custody.

Long-suffering family members said they were eagerly awaiting a list of names and their "hopes and expectations are high."

The Bring Back Our Girls campaign said Sunday it was happy that Nigeria's government had committed to rescuing the 113 remaining schoolgirls. "We urge the president and his government to earnestly pursue the release of all our Chibok girls and other abducted citizens of Nigeria," the group said in a statement.

The 276 schoolgirls kidnapped from Chibok in 2014 are among thousands of people abducted by Boko Haram over the years.

The mass abduction brought the extremist group's rampage in northern Nigeria to world attention and began years of heartbreak for the families of the missing schoolgirls.

Some relatives did not live to see their daughters released. Many of the captive girls, most of them Christians, were forced to marry their captors and give birth to children in remote forest hideouts without knowing if they would see their parents again. It is feared that other girls were strapped with explosives and sent on missions as suicide bombers.

A Nigerian military official with direct knowledge of the rescue operation said the freed girls were found near the town of Banki in Borno state near Cameroon.

Boko Haram remains active in that area. On Friday, the United States and Britain issued warnings that the extremist group was actively planning to kidnap foreigners in an area of Borno state "along the Kumshe-Banki axis."

Buhari late last year announced Boko Haram had been "crushed," but the group continues to carry out attacks in northern Nigeria and neighboring countries. Its insurgency has killed more than 20,000 people and driven 2.6 million from their homes, with millions facing starvation.

Pakistan: Army kills 50 Afghan forces in border fight

By ABDUL SATTAR and ASIF SHAHZAD

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP) — At least five Afghan checkpoints near the border with Pakistan were destroyed and 50 security forces killed in fighting in recent days, Pakistan's military said Sunday, even as Afghan officials dismissed the claims as "baseless."

Two Pakistani soldiers were also killed in the fighting that began Friday and another nine were wounded, Maj. Gen. Nadeem Ahmad told reporters at the Chaman border crossing. Another 100 Afghan security forces were wounded, he said.

Najib Danish, spokesman for the Afghan interior ministry, disputed the account, however, insisting no checkpoints were destroyed.

"That is completely baseless," he said. He said two Afghan border police were killed in Spin Boldak on the Afghan side of the border and another 11 were wounded. He said mostly civilians were harmed in the attack.

The Pakistani and Afghan armies have been clashing at the Chaman border crossing in southwestern Baluchistan province since Friday. The latest round of clashes is a dangerous escalation in tensions between the two uneasy neighbors who share a 2,200 kilometer (1,375-mile) porous border.

Officials in Islamabad say the fighting began after Afghan security forces fired on Pakistani census workers and the troops escorting them, killing nine civilians and wounding 42, including women and children. Census workers were going door-to-door in villages located along the border and the Afghan government was informed, with exact coordinates of the areas shared with Kabul, Pakistan officials say.

Friday's fighting ended when local commanders from the two armies de-escalated the situation over a hotline set up for such situations. However, hostilities reignited over the weekend over the centuries-old dispute between Islamabad and Kabul at the boundary, known as the Durand Line, which runs through villages on both sides.

Pakistan and Afghanistan routinely accuse each other of providing sanctuaries to their enemy insurgents, a charge both sides deny.

Shahzad reported from Islamabad. Associated Press writer Faiez Rahim in Kabul contributed to this report.

Israel-Germany row shines spotlight on anti-occupation group

By KARIN LAUB, Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Former Israeli combat soldiers who were thrust into the center of a recent diplomatic row between Israel and Germany, say the sudden international spotlight has given them a bigger stage to speak out against Israel's 50-year rule over millions of Palestinians.

Breaking the Silence is a group of ex-soldiers-turned-whistleblowers who view Israel's open-ended occupation of lands sought for a Palestinian state as an existential threat to their country.

Since 2004, the group has collected testimony from more than 1,100 fellow soldiers who describe the dark side of that rule, including seemingly routine mistreatment of Palestinian civilians stripped of basic rights. The veterans hope such accounts by former fighters will carry weight and spark public debate about the moral price of the occupation.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and top officials in his nationalist government have a starkly different view. They have branded Breaking the Silence as foreign-funded subversives who are trying to defame Israel and its military.

Hebron Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 32 of 40

Most recently, Netanyahu even seemed willing to rattle Israel's relationship with key European ally Germany to score points against Breaking the Silence, which has 16 paid staffers, several dozen volunteers and an annual budget of about \$2 million.

Two weeks ago, he said he would not receive German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel if the visitor stuck to plans to meet with Breaking the Silence. Gabriel chose the soldiers instead. Netanyahu, who also serves as foreign minister, said that shunning visitors who meet with Breaking the Silence is now official policy.

The fallout continues this week. The dispute has cast a shadow over what would otherwise have been a routine Israel visit by German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. Media reports suggest Steinmeier will praise the group during a speech Sunday, but not meet with its representatives to avoid another spat with Netanyahu.

Yehuda Shaul, a co-founder of Breaking the Silence, said the recent attention has been a mixed blessing.

The focus on the diplomatic dust-up "diverts a lot of attention from the real issue, what goes on in the occupied territories," he said in an interview at the group's office, tucked away in an old walk-up in a grubby industrial area of Tel Aviv.

"On the other hand, it gives us more stages to speak about it," said Shaul, citing more media attention and public speaking invitations that draw larger audiences.

Israelis have been bitterly divided over what to do with the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, lands they captured in June 1967. Israel annexed east Jerusalem immediately after the war and retains overall control over the West Bank, with enclaves of Palestinian self-rule. Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in 2005 and has enforced a border blockade of the territory since it was seized by the Islamic militant Hamas two years later.

Many Israelis support the idea of Palestinian statehood in principle, but believe it's not safe to cede war-won territories now. Fears were stoked by three Israel-Hamas wars since 2008 and an escalation of regional conflicts. Meanwhile, partition is increasingly difficult, with 600,000 Israelis already living on occupied lands and settlements expanding steadily.

Netanyahu has said he is willing to resume partition talks with the Palestinians, but gaps remain wide. A majority of his Cabinet ministers oppose a two-state solution and some even call for annexing parts of the West Bank, raising fears among some Israelis that their rule over disenfranchised Palestinians will become permanent.

Shaul said he and his comrades are the true patriots, not those clinging to occupied territories.

"I believe Jews have a right to self-determination in the Holy Land. But I refuse to accept that the only way I will be allowed to implement my right to self-determination is if I strip my neighbors, the Palestinians, of the exact same right I demand for myself," he said. "A permanent occupation is the most anti-Zionist position one can ever have because it says we are doomed to live in a sin."

The beginnings of Breaking the Silence go back to Hebron, the West Bank's largest Palestinian city, where hundreds of troops guard roughly the same number of Jewish settlers in an Israeli-controlled center partly off limits to Palestinians.

Shaul, who grew up in an Orthodox Jewish home, spent more than a year of his compulsory three-year army service in Hebron at the height of an armed Palestinian uprising of bombings and shootings that erupted in 2000.

He became increasingly disillusioned with his army mission, which he felt was largely aimed at making Palestinians fear him and his comrades. He said that while his parents and grandparents fought against armies to defend Israel, "the stories I can tell you about is breaking into houses in the middle of the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 33 of 40

night to intimidate people and seeing children crying and peeing in their pants.”

In 2004, Shaul and dozens of members from his unit presented a photo exhibit about Hebron in Tel Aviv.

Since then, the group has collected recorded testimony from hundreds of soldiers, including those who fought in recent Israel-Hamas wars. Some of the soldiers described an atmosphere in which the mission and safety of the troops trumped other considerations, such as the lives and property of Palestinians.

More than 100 soldiers have gone on the record, while the rest remain anonymous, for fear of repercussions, but are known to the group’s researchers who check their stories, Shaul said. The research department was able to flag four false testimonies by right-wing activists trying to undermine the group’s credibility, he said. All material is submitted to the military censor before publication to avoid inadvertent harm to Israel’s security, he added.

Critics allege that the group is hiding behind anonymous testimony to smear Israel soldiers and help Israel’s enemies press future war crimes charges at the International Criminal Court. They say the group, which does not call for a boycott of Israel, nonetheless feeds into what many Israelis believe is a global trend of unfairly singling out and delegitimizing Israel.

Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely recently said her office is urging European countries to stop funding what she called “anti-Israel organizations,” including Breaking the Silence. “We will ask our friends in the world to respect this red line and to stop contributing to this organization,” she said.

Some of the group’s defenders in Israel said they believe it and other anti-occupation organizations are being targeted in an escalating government assault on Israel’s civil society.

Amos Oz, Israel’s most famous living author, has said the ex-soldiers play a critical role in Israel’s society, comparing them to biblical prophets who spoke uncomfortable truths. “Moral impulse is a matter of utmost existential importance,” Oz said in a November speech that media reports said would be cited by the German president.

‘Canelo’ Alvarez dominates Chavez Jr., Golovkin next up

By MIKE CRANSTON, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Saul “Canelo” Alvarez left no doubt who is the top active Mexican boxer by dominating Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.

Come September, Alvarez will get a chance to become the middleweight champion again.

Minutes after winning every round on all three judges’ cards in a 12-round romp over Chavez, Alvarez invited Gennady Golovkin into the ring and announced a long-awaited clash on Sept. 16.

The contract has already been signed. Only the venue is undetermined.

“GGG, you are next my friend. The fight is done,” Alvarez said as the crowd cheered. “I’ve never feared anyone, since I was 16 fighting as a professional.”

Alvarez (49-1-1, 34 KOs) used a punishing jab to take control early against Chavez in a matchup of former middleweight champions. The bigger Chavez (50-3-1, 32 KOs) started bleeding from the nose in the third round. His left eye swelled in the sixth and started to close a round later.

Alvarez, who went off as a 4-1 favorite, was much quicker than the largest fighter he’s faced. He had a 228-71 edge in punches landed and an 83-15 advantage in jabs landed.

“Tonight, I showed I could move, I could box,” Alvarez said. “I showed as a fighter I can do all things. I thought I was going to showcase myself as a fighter that could throw punches, but he just wouldn’t do it.”

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 34 of 40

Alvarez's team was so confident, they cut the deal with Golovkin before the bout. It didn't matter in this one-sided fight.

"Do you think I lost focus?" Alvarez said. "I consider myself a person of strong mental strength."

Alvarez had no choice after relinquishing his WBC belt last year to Golovkin when he declined to reach a fight deal.

"I feel very excited, right now is a different story," Golovkin said. "In September, it will be a different style, a big drama show. I'm ready."

The 31-year-old Chavez, son of iconic Mexican boxer Julio Cesar Chavez Sr., was trying to revitalize a career derailed by positive drug tests, weight issues and lax training. But he proved no match.

Chavez avoided a \$1 million-per-pound penalty when he weighed in at 164 pounds Friday, a half-pound below the bout catchweight and the lightest he's been since losing his middleweight title to Sergio Martinez in 2012.

The 26-year-old Alvarez also weighed in at 164, nine pounds heavier than he's ever fought. Alvarez, whose lone loss was to Floyd Mayweather Jr., got against the ropes several times and absorbed combinations from Chavez before quickly recovering with uppercuts.

Despite a four-inch height advantage and an obvious weight edge after he rehydrated, Chavez was overmatched in his first fight under iconic trainer Ignacio "Nacho" Beristain.

Chavez's left eye was badly swollen in the post-fight press conference and he acknowledged he felt weaker having lost so much weight.

"If I would've attacked more I would've been countered by his punches. Nacho told me to do that but the strategy didn't work," Chavez said. "I couldn't throw as many punches as I wanted. My father kept telling me to throw more punches from the ringside."

A confident Canelo didn't bother to sit in his corner after the seventh round of a fight that wasn't nearly as competitive as hoped.

A week after Anthony Joshua stopped Wladimir Klitschko in the 11th round of a thrilling heavyweight bout in front of 90,000 fans at London's Wembley Stadium, the sport staged another big fight. Only this time there was a distinct Latino flavor.

Mexican bands played outside T-Mobile Arena more than three hours before the main undercard began. Many of the 20,510 fans inside the sold-out building wore either red (Canelo) or green (Chavez) headbands as they celebrated the Cinco de Mayo weekend by chanting "Mexico, Mexico."

There was tension between the two fighters along with political overtones as a commercial for the fight depicted both boxers bursting through President Donald Trump's proposed border wall.

The red-bearded Alvarez is normally mild-mannered, but he had criticized Chavez for his work ethic. Chavez then needled him for refusing to fight the bigger Golovkin.

Alvarez was guaranteed \$5 million and Chavez \$3 million. The September fight could produce an eight-figure purse for Alvarez.

"I've had difficult fights," Alvarez said, "and that will no doubt be a tough fight."

In the co-main event, former IBF middleweight champion David Lemieux of Montreal took a unanimous decision over stubborn Mexican Marco Reyes in a catchweight bout at 163 pounds.

A left by Lemieux (38-3) opened a large gash above Reyes' right eye in the second round. Lemieux later twice knocked out Reyes' mouthpiece with punches. But Reyes (35-5) stayed upright for 10 rounds as blood streamed down his face and onto his chest.

Other matches on the undercard included Lucas Matthyse, a former junior welterweight champ, ending a 20-month layoff by dropping Emmanuel Taylor (20-5) of Maryland twice before the referee stopped it in the fifth round. The Argentine (38-4) was making his welterweight debut.

Joseph "JoJo" Diaz Jr. (24-0) out-pointed fellow Californian Manuel "Tino" Avila (22-1) in a one-sided

10-round featherweight bout.

For much of the undercard, fans traded "Canelo" and "Chavez" chants on a festive night that brought out several stars, including Evander Holyfield.

Alvarez knows his next fight will be bigger.

"I expect the fight is going to be explosive and powerful," Alvarez said. "The styles are there. They should mesh together."

Experts: Convicting ex-officer in teen's death will be tough

By JUAN A. LOZANO, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Authorities who've charged a white suburban Dallas police officer with murder in a black teenager's death face a tough task in getting a conviction as few of these cases go to trial and, when they do, juries remain reluctant to second guess an officer's decision to use deadly force, legal experts said Saturday.

Roy Oliver is free on bond after being charged Friday in the death of 15-year-old Jordan Edwards. Investigators say Oliver shot into a car of teenagers leaving an unruly party on April 29, killing Edwards. Oliver was fired by the Balch Springs Police Department three days after the shooting.

Philip Stinson, a criminal justice professor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, said data he's collected since 2005 on police shootings shows officers rarely are charged in deadly shootings. It's even rarer for an officer to be convicted, according to the data.

From his research, Stinson estimates that fatal shootings by U.S. police officers who are on duty occur about 1,000 times a year. But since 2005, only 81 officers have been charged with murder or manslaughter resulting from an on-duty shooting, he said. Of these 81 cases, there have been 30 convictions, 31 cases with no conviction and 20 that are still pending.

In recent years, many police shootings have been captured on video taken by officers' body cameras or witnesses' cellphones. But Stinson said such evidence still doesn't guarantee a conviction.

He points to the 2015 shooting in South Carolina of black motorist Walter Scott by officer Michael Slager. A cellphone video captured Slager shooting Scott five times in the back as the unarmed 50-year-old man ran away during a traffic stop. In December a mistrial was declared in Slager's murder trial after a jury couldn't reach a verdict. Slager pleaded guilty on Tuesday to a federal charge of violating Scott's civil rights.

"I'm not willing to say it's jury nullification where the jury is just not going to convict in any scenario," Stinson said. "But we are getting close to that, to the extent that even in what seem to be the strongest cases for a prosecutor, such as the Slager case, a jury is just very reluctant to convict the officer."

Attorneys for Oliver didn't immediately return calls or emails seeking comment on Saturday.

Oliver's mother, Linda, has told KXAS-TV her son is "a man of strong character."

Edwards' family issued a statement late Friday saying Oliver's arrest on the murder charge "brings hope that the justice system will bend against the overwhelming weight of our frustration."

A private funeral service for Edwards was held on Saturday.

Balch Springs police had originally said the vehicle Edwards was a passenger in was reversing "in an aggressive manner" toward officers, who had responded to a complaint about underage drinking.

But Police Chief Jonathan Haber later said video taken at the scene proved the vehicle was actually driving away. Oliver opened fire on the teenagers' car with a rifle. The bullets shattered the front passenger-side window and fatally struck Edwards.

The warrant issued on Friday for Oliver's arrest was based on evidence that suggested Oliver "intended to cause serious bodily injury and commit an act clearly dangerous to human life that caused

the death," said the Dallas County Sheriff's Department, which is investigating the shooting along with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office.

Records show that Oliver was briefly suspended in 2013 following a complaint about his conduct while serving as a witness in a drunken-driving case.

Philip Hilder, a Houston criminal defense attorney and former federal prosecutor, said the issue of race will be "in the back of everybody's mind going forward in this case" but whether it's brought up at trial will be up to the judge.

"The fact (authorities) moved as rapidly as they have indicates confidence in their case and that they believe they will be able to prevail on the murder charge because in a situation like this, it's very unusual to have a charging decision so soon after the shooting," Hilder said.

Follow Juan A. Lozano on Twitter at www.twitter.com/juanlozano70

Nepal man, 85, dies trying to become oldest Everest climber

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA, Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — An 85-year-old Nepali man has died while attempting to regain his title as the oldest person to climb Mount Everest, officials said.

Min Bahadur Sherchan died at the Everest base camp on Saturday evening. The cause of death was not immediately clear, but mountaineering official Gyanendra Shrestha, who is at the base camp, said he likely suffered cardiac arrest. Shrestha could not elaborate due to a poor telephone connection.

Sherchan, a grandfather of 17 and great-grandfather to six, first scaled Everest in May 2008 when he was 76 — at the time becoming the oldest climber to reach the top.

His record was broken in 2013 by 80-year-old Japanese Yuichiro Miura.

Before leaving for the mountain last month, Sherchan told The Associated Press that once he had completed the climb and became famous, he intended to travel to conflict areas to spread a message of peace.

He had trained for months before the attempt, saying that he did not suffer from any respiratory problems and his blood pressure was normal.

Being born in the mountains, he said he had did not have any problems with high altitude or the low levels of oxygen there.

Sherchan's love of mountaineering began in 1960 when he was assigned by the Nepalese government to be a liaison officer for the Swiss team climbing Mount Dhaulagiri.

He later became an apple farmer and constructed roads and dams before settling down to run hotels in Kathmandu.

A record number of climbers are hoping to scale the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) mountain in May and June, the best months for climbing Everest. The Nepalese Tourism Department has issued 371 permits this year.

A renowned Swiss climber, Ueli Steck, who was training to scale Everest, was killed last Sunday.

The 2015 season was scrapped after 19 climbers were killed and 61 injured by an avalanche at the base camp triggered by a massive earthquake. In 2014, an avalanche at the Khumbu Icefall killed 16 Sherpa guides.

Mud in your eye: Always Dreaming wins Kentucky Derby in slop

By BETH HARRIS, AP Racing Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A trainer and jockey accustomed to success. A headstrong horse with a mind of its own. Together, they harnessed their collective talents to win the Kentucky Derby.

Always Dreaming splashed through the slop for a 2 3/4-length victory Saturday, giving Todd Pletcher and rider John Velazquez their second victories in the race but their first together.

The New York-based duo has teamed up often over the years and is the sport's leading money winners. On their own, they were a combined 2 for 63 coming into America's greatest race.

Joining forces, they were unbeatable on a cool and rainy day at Churchill Downs.

"We have had a great relationship for a long time now, and we have won a lot of races together," Pletcher said. "This is the one we wanted to win together."

Sent off at 9-2 odds, Always Dreaming made it the fifth straight year that a Derby favorite has won, equaling the longest stretch since 1892-1896.

He was followed across the finish line by a pair of long shots: 33-1 Lookin At Lee and 40-1 Battle of Midway.

Always Dreaming ran 1 1/4 miles in 2:03.59 on the first off-track since Orb won in 2013. He paid \$11.40, \$7.20 and \$5.80.

"This is the best horse Todd and I have ever come to the Kentucky Derby with," Velazquez said. "Being behind me for 24 years together, a long time for him to still trust in me and give me the opportunity, it's not very often it happens in this business."

Lookin At Lee returned \$26.60 and \$18.20, while Battle of Midway was another five lengths back in third and paid \$20.80 to show.

Pletcher won his first Derby in 2010 with Super Saver; Velazquez won the following year with Animal Kingdom.

Rarely one to show his emotions, Pletcher admitted being teary-eyed behind his sunglasses.

Going into his 17th Derby, Pletcher saddled the post-time favorite for the first time. Much had been made of his 1 for 45 Derby record.

"It's becoming a little more respectable now," said Pletcher, whose 48 starters tied D. Wayne Lukas for the most in Derby history. "It felt like I really needed that second one."

Velazquez used his colt's speed out of the gate to get good position early in a chaotic start that saw several horses, including McCracken and Classic Empire, banged around. He steered Always Dreaming into an ideal trip behind pacesetter State of Honor, with mud flying in all directions on a surface that resembled creamy peanut butter.

"We got wiped out at the start. McCracken came and nearly knocked us," said Mark Casse, who trains Classic Empire. "The track is impossible."

On the final turn, Always Dreaming took command as State of Honor faded. Despite chasing a quick early pace, Always Dreaming was still full of run. No other horses threatened him down the stretch and Velazquez furiously pumped his right arm as they crossed the finish line.

"I got a good position with him early and then he relaxed," Velazquez said. "When we hit the quarter pole, I asked him and he responded. He did it himself from there."

Pletcher had his hands full in the days leading up to the Derby when the colt's behavior was less than a dream.

He was fractious in the morning, refusing to relax.

"I was nervous watching him gallop," the trainer said.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 38 of 40

Turns out the dark brown colt knew best.

He channeled his aggression into a determined effort on a track turned into goo by on and off rain before the race.

"I think he really came in here and knew it was game time, and he was ready to go," Pletcher said. "The most important thing to do is bring the best horse to the Derby, and that's what we were able to do."

Always Dreaming earned his fourth straight victory, proving that his five-length win in the Florida Derby was no fluke.

By winning the Derby, he accomplished something his sire Bodemeister couldn't do. Bodemeister finished second in the 2012 race.

The victory was worth \$1,635,800.

Always Dreaming's primary ownership is comprised of Brooklyn Boyz Stables and Teresa Viola, whose Brooklyn-born husband Vincent owns the NHL's Florida Panthers.

"There's no feeling like this," Vincent Viola said.

Classic Empire finished fourth, followed by Practical Joke, Tapwrit, Gunnevera, McCracken, Gormley and Irish War Cry. Hence was 11th, followed by Untrapped, Girvin, one-eyed Patch, J Boys Echo, Soneteer, Fast And Accurate, Irap, and State of Honor.

Pletcher also trains Tapwrit and Patch.

Thunder Snow, the Dubai-based entry, didn't finish. He broke poorly out of the starting gate and began bucking. He was caught by the outrider and walked back to the barn on his own.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, May 7, the 127th day of 2017. There are 238 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 7, 1942, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright went on a Manila radio station to announce the Allies' surrender of the Philippines to Japanese forces during World War II.

On this date:

In 1789, America's first inaugural ball was held in New York in honor of President George Washington, who'd taken the oath of office a week earlier.

In 1824, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125, had its premiere in Vienna.

In 1915, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the British liner RMS Lusitania off the southern coast of Ireland, killing 1,198 people, including 128 Americans, out of the nearly 2,000 on board.

In 1939, Germany and Italy announced a military and political alliance known as the Rome-Berlin Axis.

In 1941, Glenn Miller and His Orchestra recorded "Chattanooga Choo Choo" for RCA Victor.

In 1945, Germany signed an unconditional surrender at Allied headquarters in Rheims (rams), France, ending its role in World War II.

In 1954, the 55-day Battle of Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam ended with Vietnamese insurgents overrunning French forces.

In 1963, the United States launched the Telstar 2 communications satellite.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford formally declared an end to the "Vietnam era." In Ho Chi Minh City — formerly Saigon — the Viet Cong celebrated its takeover.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 39 of 40

In 1977, Seattle Slew won the Kentucky Derby, the first of his Triple Crown victories.

In 1984, a \$180 million out-of-court settlement was announced in the Agent Orange class-action suit brought by Vietnam veterans who charged they'd suffered injury from exposure to the defoliant.

In 1992, the latest addition to America's space shuttle fleet, Endeavour, went on its first flight. A 203-year-old proposed constitutional amendment barring Congress from giving itself a midterm pay raise received enough votes for ratification as Michigan became the 38th state to approve it.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush welcomed Britain's Queen Elizabeth II to the White House, drawing laughter when he mistakenly started to say that the queen had previously helped the U.S. celebrate its bicentennial in "17...", then quickly corrected himself to say "1976." Six Muslim immigrants from the former Yugoslavia and the Middle East were arrested and accused of plotting to massacre U.S. soldiers at Fort Dix, New Jersey. (Five were later convicted in federal court of conspiring to kill military personnel; the sixth was charged only with gun offenses, and pleaded guilty.) Yahweh Ben Yahweh, a former cult leader in Miami linked to nearly two dozen gruesome killings in the 1980s, died at age 71.

Five years ago: Education Secretary Arne Duncan broke ranks with the White House, stating his unequivocal support for same-sex marriage a day after Vice President Joe Biden said on NBC that he was "absolutely comfortable" with gay couples marrying. (Two days later, President Barack Obama declared his support for same-sex marriage, a position he had previously stopped short of embracing.) Vladimir Putin took the oath of office as Russia's president for the next six years in a brief but regal Kremlin ceremony.

One year ago: A Tesla Model S sedan that was in self-driving mode crashed into the side of a tractor-trailer in Williston, Florida, killing its occupant, Joshua D. Brown. Convicted drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who twice pulled off brazen jailbreaks, was transferred to a prison in northern Mexico near the Texas border. President Barack Obama told the graduating class at Howard University in Washington, D.C. that the country was "a better place today" than when he left college more than 30 years earlier, but acknowledged that gaps persisted, citing racism and inequality. A single ticket purchased in New Jersey won a Powerball jackpot worth \$429.6 million. Nyquist won the Kentucky Derby by 1 1/4 lengths, finishing in 2:01.31.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., is 85. Rhythm-and-blues singer Thelma Houston is 74. Actress Robin Strasser is 72. Singer-songwriter Bill Danoff is 71. Rock musician Bill Kreutzmann (Grateful Dead) is 71. Rock musician Prairie Prince is 67. Movie writer-director Amy Heckerling is 65. Actor Michael E. Knight is 58. Rock musician Phil Campbell (Motorhead) is 56. Country musician Rick Schell is 54. Rock singer-musician Chris O'Connor (Primitive Radio Gods) is 52. Actress Traci Lords is 49. Actor Morocco Omari (TV: "Empire") is 47. Singer Eagle-Eye Cherry is 46. Actor Breckin Meyer is 43. Rock musician Matt Helders (Arctic Monkeys) is 31. Actress-comedian Aidy Bryant is 30. Actor Taylor Abrahamse is 26. Actor Alexander Ludwig is 25. Actress Dylan Gelula is 23.

Thought for Today: "There is only one thing more painful than learning from experience, and that is not learning from experience." — Archibald MacLeish, American poet and writer (born this date in 1892, died 1982).

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, May 07, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 297 ~ 40 of 40



It was a great attempt, but the effort fell short with this year's plan with the National Guard. They were to arrive at 9 a.m. Saturday with three big trucks as Branden Abeln was ready to start loading, but the trucks did not show up until 10:30 a.m. Only four loads were hauled to the Aberdeen landfill. Pictured below is what remains of the pile at the end of the day, plus a truck load of televisions. The city will have to get dumpsters to haul the remaining stuff to Aberdeen.

